EXONYM AS AN INTERNATIONAL TERM
(C. Page)
The definition of *exonym* included in the Glossary of Technical Terminology (E/CONF.61/L.1/Rev.1) was: "a geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical entity situated outside the area where the language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated." The definition was not discussed exhaustively, nor was there explicit rejection of *conventional name* and *traditional name*.

The word *exonym* had apparently acquired limited currency as early as the appearance of the following in The Rendering of Geographical Names (Aurousseau, Hutchinson, London, 1957, page 2): "Name used in English for other parts of the world and geographical features outside England. These I shall call 'English geographical names', or for those who prefer jargon 'English exonyms'."

Among the difficulties encountered in introducing the term into use have been:

1. its unfamiliarity;
2. the lack at the outset of a generally recognized definition; and
3. the existence in virtually every language of at least one other term whose semantic range partially, but not wholly, coalesced with those suggested (or presumed) for *exonym*.

The following definitions represent an attempt to set forth the semantic ranges of "conventional" and "traditional", the two terms most frequently employed with or in place of *exonym*, and to provide for *exonym* a concise definition that encompasses the ranges covered by the other two terms:

*exonym*  
A written form of a geographical name,  
which is used  
in a given country for a feature located outside that country,  
and which does not coincide with any official local name for the feature.

*conventional name*  
A written form of a geographical name,  
which is widely and currently used  
in a given country for a feature located outside that country,  
and which does not coincide with any official local name for the feature.

*traditional name*  
A written form of a geographical name,  
which is long established as well as being presently in use  
in a given country for a feature located outside that country,  
and which does not coincide with any official local name for the feature.

These definitions draw particularly on the following documents of that conference:

- E/CONF.61/L.24 *Conventional Names; Definitions; Usage*.
- E/CONF.61/L.67 *Glossaire de la terminologie employée dans la normalisation des noms géographiques*.